CBRN Warfare

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(or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb)

This will be a continuation of my article about WWIII.

Relevant background, former member of CBRNE counter-terrorist organization & current CBRN specialist for an Infantry company.

Although I gave a brief rundown in my WWIII article, recent events on Dnipr Steppe have made this topic more relevant. This article will run through what a CBRN conflict would actually look like & give some pointers on how to survive the coming of Kalki. I'll run through the 4 types of CBRN threats individually, than elaborate on the post-detonation situation.

Chemical



Chemical warfare is the easiest to understand. It hasn't changed much since the first canisters of mustard gas hit the trenches of Northern France. Chemical weapons are usually lumped into the category of 'Weapons of Mass Destruction,' but this is only really in the context of a terrorist attack on civilian targets. In a tactical context, gas attacks are no more dangerous than more conventional weaponry.

On the battlefield, a gas attack is utilized as either a method to break a defensive line or disrupt an attack. Some may claim that it can be used as a blocking tactic (similar to land mines), but this is highly unlikely & would only last a few minutes before the gas dissipates. The biggest sign that you're about to be gassed is if the enemy is wearing protective clothing or masks. As a general rule of thumb, you should match whatever protective level (explained later) the enemy is wearing. These protective measures are very uncomfortable, they're usually worn for a reason.

The vast majority of chemical weapons are only dangerous if taken into an orifice, nose, mouth, eyes, etc. This means all you really need on the spot is a functioning gas mask with **in date filters.** Gas masks are useless without unexpired & undamaged filters. Unfortunately, these tend to be expensive & expire after some time.

The civilian side of things is brighter, these don't have a lot of use against civilian targets during wartime. It's unlikely they get utilized & if they do it will be somewhere like Times Square, meaning the potential targets probably deserved it.

Chemical agents can be divided as follows:

• Choking Agent - These agents are usually not very harmful against a healthy person, and are used liberally by police forces as riot control measures. US agent of choice is CS gas. This has been used by Russia in Ukraine several times for reasons explained above. Very limited threat, do not inhale & wear goggles if possible.

• Blister Agent - This is the only agent that's specifically dangerous to your skin, thus requiring a full protective suit. Some are more penetrative than others, while some can be stopped by thicker clothing. Your protective gear should be multilayered & fully cover the skin, as well as a gas mask. Most famous blister agent is mustard gas. Most types of blister agents are minimally harmful to the skin, but will cause blisters on your eyes, throat, & lungs. A miserable death.

• Blood Agents - The really nasty one, these agents target your bloodstream. It can enter through any open wound (to include a papercut) or simply through your lungs/stomach. These are extremely lethal. The most notable blood agent is Hydrogen Cyanide (HC), which is often used as a poison. The worst aspect of blood agents is that **they will burn through your filters**. Not all of them, but all of the common ones. As a rule of thumb, you have about 15 minutes before your filters cease functioning. If the enemy really wants you dead, they'll deploy these to kill your filters before sending a nerve agent to kill you.

• Nerve Agent - My favorite, and the most common. These agents work by attacking the nervous system. You will lose any ability to have a coherent thought, enter a seizure like state, and then your nervous system will cease to function. It was described to me as "the worst LSD trip followed by a stroke." Fun times. Avoid dying by covering your entire face & ears, including any open wounds. Major nerve agents include VX, Sarin, & Novichok.

• Production Agents - This is an unofficial category, but refers to chemicals not often used in weapons but commonly found in factories & such. The worst of these is Chlorine, which will burn through any protective gear in minutes before dissolving your body from the inside. These are liable to be accidentally released around major production centers by otherwise conventional weaponry.

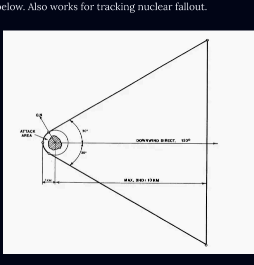
Something common to all of these, except choking agents, is that they are invisible, odorless, & tasteless. If you get attacked by VX, you will be dead without warning unless a CBRN specialist is nearby with detection equipment. In that case, you'll be briefly warned & then die. The most telling sign of a gas attack is seeing nearby friendlies exhibiting symptoms.

Symptoms can be observed using the acronym **SLUDGE: salivation, lacrimation (crying), urination, diarrhea, gastrointestinal cramps, and emesis (vomit).** If you see this happening, put your mask on immediately.

Something to note about chemical weapons is a term called "battlefield conditions." These weapons behave differently in open air than in buildings. They typically have a specific gravity lower than 1, meaning they are lighter than the atmosphere around them & will quickly disappear into the sky. Other than sticking to clothing, the chemical threat will typically disappear within 30 minutes. This is not true for interior structures, where chemicals could remain indefinitely. **Do not enter any closed off areas after a chemical attack.**

In order to solve a chemical issue, always remember that '**Dilution Is The Solution**.' Spray water on it until it goes away, it's rarely enough to significantly impact even a small pond. Standard dish soap, like Dawn, will also be good at helping to clean any personnel or equipment subject to chemical exposure. If it can clean oil of the ducks, it can clean the VX off you. Don't get your filters wet or you'll suffocate btw.

If you'd like, learn how to use a plotting board to track the spread of chemical agents, as below. Also works for tracking nuclear fallout.



Biological



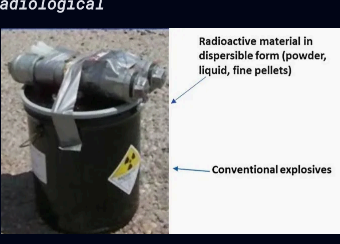
My least favorite branch. Biological agents, as the name implies, refers to living organisms. This means virus & disease. This is certainly the oldest form of CBRN warfare, the most famous example being throwing animal corpses into water sources to poison them. North Korea uses this when sending balloons with fecal matter across the border, same with the old punji traps with ox dung on the tips. With modern advances in both food logistics & antibiotics, this threat isn't what it used to be - to soldiers. Just don't drink unpurified water & don't eat random local foods.

The modern bio target is on the civilian side. The main target is actually agriculture, poisoning crops & livestock to hurt the enemy war effort & limit their ability to feed their soldiers or citizens. As part of the mediocre video game *The Division*, Ubisoft released an ad that alluded to the real world Operation Dark Winter. Dark Winter basically tested what would happen if the US faced a biological attack (specifically anthrax) & how well the medical system could handle the situation. As you can guess, it couldn't. COVID showed this as well. In the event of a widespread Anthrax outbreak, your best bet is to simply avoid others & stay inside. If you need to leave, use a certified mask & maybe goggles if you're in a hotspot.

The government will quarantine hot zones, this is an SOP established decades ago. The Division portrayed this by depicting the government building a walled off "Dark Zone" around Times Square & later all of Long Island, & this is accurate to how it would actually play out. The primary goal is to stop the spread, secondary to cure the infected. If it's a highly developed virus with no cure, the infected will be left to die in their quarantine zones rather than spread it further. The Division, both the games & the associated media, actually did an excellent job at portraying this so I recommend looking into some lore videos of that.

If you're infected, get treated or exile yourself from loved ones. It's highly unlikely something like this happens to the same scale often portrayed in media, but not impossible. Most likely it will target livestock or be more mundane, like the flu. This is, in all likelihood, the least threatening aspect CBRN operations.

Radiological



Radiological warfare is highly unlikely in a tactical environment. This is confined to the world of terrorism & intelligence agencies.

Radiological means radiation, but not nuclear reactions. These weapons are referred to as "Radiation Dispersion Devices." They spread radioactive material. The most common is the dirty bomb, pictured above. It is a conventional explosive with radioactive materials added to the mix to increase casualties. The Islamic State attempted this a few times in Syria, usually fucking up the mixture & rendering it useless. Minimal threat.

The other weapon, which is mostly theoretical, is a radioactive wave emitter. This is theorized to be the weapon behind the alleged "Moscow Signal," which was a microwave signal directed at the US Embassy in Moscow during the Cold War. These are often called Direct Energy Weapons, one of the hypothetical energies could be neutron radiation. These are mostly theoretical & wouldn't be very useful on the battlefield.

I'll touch on surviving in a radioactive environment after this next section.

Nuclear



Everyone's favorite, nuclear weapons.

I doubt I need to explain what nuclear warfare will look like, you probably get the idea. Major economic centers & military bases will be hit, repeatedly. It's very likely that cities like Moscow or New York will be hit by dozens of warheads. Look at a list of the top 100 cities in the world, and you have a list of a lot of radioactive piles of ruble.

That being said, nuclear war & the overdramatized conception of "nuclear winter" are vastly exaggerated. If every single warhead in the Russian arsenal was aimed at the US exclusively, it wouldn't hit more than 10% of our land area. The major cities will obviously be leveled, as well as major military installations, but the rest of the country would be fine. Hypothetical fallout would only last about 5 years. It may temporarily cause lower temperatures & limit sunlight slightly, but it's not going to be some ominous cloud that blocks out the sun for the coming centuries.

It also won't end whatever war is being fought. Tanks & other vehicles are designed to operate in a post-nuclear environment for a reason. The conventional fighting will continue, even around ground zero of nuclear detonations. The US highway system has turn pikes so that military forces can go around destroyed cities. There's similar protocols in Russia & Europe. Despite this, the military is probably the best place to be if you're not a survivalist. Regardless of the fighting, you'll have a steady supply of food, water, medical care, etc.

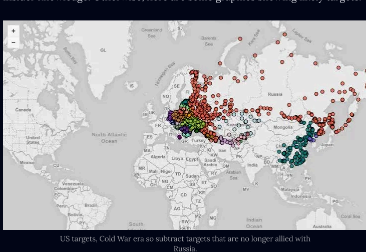
Nuclear warhead numbers are irrelevant in regards to actual delivery vehicles. The only actually viable delivery vehicles are ICBMs, strategic bombers & submarines. These delivery vehicles will not last long, there's multiple units & agencies dedicated to keeping track of their whereabouts. No nuclear submarine or missile silo is going to be reloading, they will be annihilated shortly after expending their own munitions. This includes any airfield that hosts strategic bombers, silo fields & submarines. Yes, the submarines will be targeted with full strength nuclear weapons.

The only realistic second strike capabilities are aircraft, particularly aircraft that only carry nuclear warheads occasionally. Things like the Tornado that are capable but unlikely to immediately have them on standby, as opposed to the consistently nuclear equipped B-52s or Tu-95s.

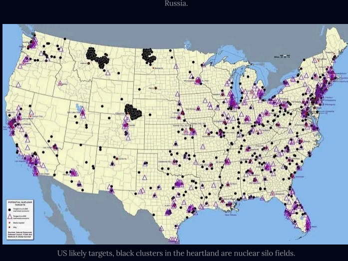
Nuclear interceptors are highly ineffective, for now anyway. Maybe 5% of warheads could be intercepted, nothing significant. That won't stop them from trying, and a lot of fighter aircraft will be sacrificed on one way missions to destroy nuclear bombers or missiles in their launch phase. Emphasis on the one way trip.

Another theoretical approach to stopping an ICBM is by detonating a nuclear weapon in the atmosphere, similar to the mission Second Sun in MW2. This would theoretically take out a decent cluster of warheads near the apex of their trajectory. This will also cause an EMP effect over friendly air space.

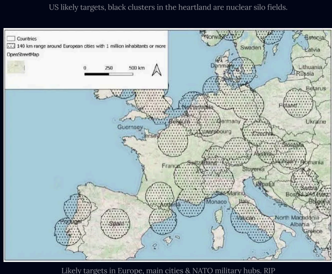
Regardless, this video is an excellent visualization of the stages & likely targets of a nuclear exchange. It's about half an hour long, & it lines up with my own insider knowledge. Otherwise, here are some graphics showing likely targets.



US targets, Cold War era so subtract targets that are no longer allied with Russia.



US likely targets, black clusters in the heartland are nuclear silo fields.



Likely targets in Europe, main cities & NATO military hubs. RIP Czechoslovakia lmao

Don't live near these places, for a plethora of reasons.

Radiation

Types of radiation are Alpha, Beta, Neutron & Gamma.

Alpha & Beta are particles, and come off of physical objects that have been irradiated. They are surprisingly not that dangerous. Alpha particles cannot even penetrate the outer layers of your skin. That being said, the main threat of these particles is ingestion. Don't breathe them in or consume irradiated things. Same PPE as chemical weapons.

X-Ray & Gamma are both waves, energy. This is what you probably imagine radiation to be, and is what gives you radiation sickness (acute & chronic). This is what killed most victims of Chernobyl. The key to protecting yourself from this is STD: Shielding, Time, Distance. Stay away from the source, give it time to die down & shield yourself with radiation resistant materials like water, lead or charcoal.

Neutron is a particle but significantly more powerful than the other particles. It will pass straight through any protective clothing & your body. Fortunately, neutron waves are only present close to ground zero & dissipate after a short time. They are also effectively stopped by decently thick concrete. This is the only form of radiation capable of turning non-radioactive materials radioactive.

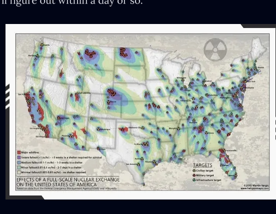
Further reading on types of radiation.

Getting Nuked

You know the old story about the Fallout mascot holding his thumb up to the blast? That's still accurate. If the cloud is smaller than your thumb, you are temporarily safe from the explosion. If it's larger, immediately take cover behind a hard wall that can absorb radiation. Concrete, earth, etc. Remember that there are **two shockwaves**. One explosion & one implosion which is equally dangerous. If you cannot find adequate cover, lay face down with your feet facing the explosion & hands covering your head. After both shockwaves pass, get far away as fast as possible. Seek medical attention.

Just because it's smaller doesn't mean you're in the clear. If you are upwind from the explosion, the radioactive material will be moving towards you. If this is the case, move perpendicular to the wind & away from the explosion & its course.

The only exception to all this is neutron bombs, which are rare & possibly not even in service anymore. These produce relatively small airburst explosions but emit extreme amounts of neutron radiation. If you're too close to one of this, you'll figure out within a day or so.



This is a map of likely nuclear targets & the subsequent fallout by FEMA, it is accurate to my current knowledge. Don't live in the blue or purple areas. If possible, try to have a secondary property in a safer area to retreat to, some prepper communities will do this as groups to spread out costs.

Don't go close to ground zero for at least a year, much longer if it's a target like LA or NYC that will get hit many times. After the wave radiation dissipates, be sure to wear your protective gear to avoid ingesting particle radiation. All water should be filtered prior to ingestion, regardless of radioactivity. Test food if possible, especially if hunted or foraged.

You're main threat other survivors, be a bigger threat. You should already own effective weaponry, if not your NGMI anyway. You shouldn't be able to kill others for supplies, you should be willing & excited about it. We wuz Mad Max & whatnot.

Personal Protective Gear



As seen in the above graphic, PPE is donned in levels. These apply to all CBRN attack types. I'll skip level D as it simply means work uniform with no PPE.

Level C is a full coverage uniform (such as the depicted blauer suit or a military MOPP suit) with a standard gas mask.

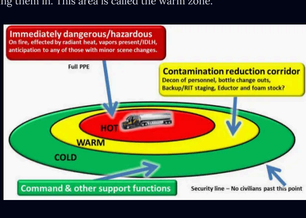
Level B is the same, but utilizes self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) instead of a mask. This is functionally a SCUBA system with a dedicated oxygen tank. Utilize this when dealing with chemicals that burn through filters (blood agent or chlorine, as well as the standard for unknown substances) or situations where the oxygen percentage is too low. Firefighters use this because smoke displaces air inside burning buildings. Chemicals do the same, which is why I advised earlier to never enter a confined space in a CBRN environment.

Level A is a full suit, affectionately called the amogus suit by my old unit. It has double layered protection to protect against splashing hazards like liquid chlorine. Generally unnecessary in most situations.

In most situations, the only necessary uniform is completely covering the skin with thick fabric (denim, leather, work pants, hoodies, etc.) & a gas mask. Be sure to also cover your ears, this can be done with ear muffs, a hoodie, or just beanie worn low. Do not allow open wounds to stay open, cover them with bandages & duct tape as soon as you're able.

Remember, the biggest threat in a nuclear war is the particle radiation that cannot penetrate most clothing. The wave radiation will be almost completely gone after a month. Be mindful of this to not inhale or ingest these particles.

Thoroughly decontaminate any equipment that you take with you outside. During my time with mass casualty decon, we usually left equipment in the "hot zone" for later use. Especially firearms & electronics that don't like getting wet. You should have your own decon corridor when entering your safe zone, where contaminated equipment & clothing is left rather than bringing them in. This area is called the warm zone.



Clothing & any equipment you want to bring into the safe zone can be cleaned with basic water & dish soap. Let it soak for a minute & then rinse it off a few times. Have a dedicated area for the runoff of this process.

As for gas masks, here is a buyer's guide from a a very reputable manufacturer of both tactical & factory masks. I personally own their CM-7M mask & know several professional cops, firefighters & HAZMAT specialists that use their gear. **DO NOT BUY SOME PIECE OF SHIT MILSURP.** You won't find unexpired filters & will die because they're old & comprised. Rubber gloves, the chemical resistant kind, aren't a bad purchase either.

A geiger counter isn't a bad thing to have, there's a whole hobby community surrounding them so info about various products is abundant. Make sure that whatever product you buy is capable of detecting at least Beta & Gamma radiation, other forms are either unimportant or exist alongside these two anyway. I would have a secondary radiation detector for food & water as well, other than one you take outside. Another useful device is a dosimeter, which tracks how much radiation you've been exposed to over time. If the number starts rising fast, leave. Easily found online. If you want to, you can also buy a MultiRAE. This device is very good at finding the exact chemical composition of the air you are sensing, including oxygen percentage. It's not the most useful thing for the average civilian but it is an option. Can be found at many electronic stores or looted from local HAZMAT teams. These are complicated to use & several thousand dollars, so wouldn't put it very high on the priority list.

Satellite phones are an obvious must, there's plenty of survival focused devices that also utilize the GPS network. If you want standard radios, the absolute best on the market is the Motorola SRX 2200. Fantastic reliability & GPS positioning. Only use Baofengs if you're dead broke.

You should have a milspec AR-15. It doesn't matter which one, Daniel Defense M4s & Mk18s are my go to. Just make sure they're compatible with standard milspec parts which are abundant. Otherwise, use common weapons like the Remington 700 (bolt action hunting rifle) or Mossberg 500 (pump shotgun). Simple weapons that use very common ammo (5.56, 7.62×51, 12ga, 9mm, etc.) & are unlikely to fail. Your FAL or Galil will be very nice until you can't find a small part to replace.

If you learned anything from games Tarkov or Fallout, loot everything. Take anything of value you can get your hands on. Even if it's useless to you, someone else will pay you for it.

Get night vision devices. Both a scope for a hunting rifle & long range scanning, plus at least a pair of goggles. They're not even expensive anymore. Nocturnality Gear is my go to, wait for them to have a decent sale.

Conclusion

Nuclear war will be the end of this era, a harsher shift than bronze age collapse. Basically every country & civilization on the planet will be entirely destroyed. This isn't exactly the greatest thing to happen, but at least it provides a clean slate. The survivors of Europe & North America will be well over 90% White, so that's nice. The biggest threat will be food scarcity, but this isn't the be all end all some claim. Nuclear winter will last, at most, a decade & there's enough food the scavenge to last us through that. Anyone claiming it will be the end of the world is just being hyperbolic, or lacks proper CBRN education, unlike my beloved readers. I would expect the world population to decline 80% within 50 years, though. This includes the total collapse of third world countries in the absence of Western & Chinese aid. We will also be set back technologically by a few decades, in most aspects anyway.

A lot of your survival depends upon luck, or divine favor, but you can increase that chance with proper knowledge & preparation. Fortune favors the bold.

Hail Victory.



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user12497 Nov 29
Liked by Der Einzige
I didn't realize quality gas masks were so inexpensive. Assumed they were like nods that run thousands of dollars. With the black friday sale the CM-8Ms are only 250 dollars, don't see why i shouldnt get one. Thanks for the info.
Nods on the other hand still seem to run 10k+ for a full set-up, too large of a chunk of my take-home to justify methinks.
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